



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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Answers have been received from the following members, and marks awarded in the following order:—

Div. I. (members age from 12 and upwards) Harry Ward, (4), Edmée Manning (6), Winifred Grice (4), Susan Venables, (4), Margaret Bulley (5), Edith Fraser (6), May Lewis, (6), Mary Ashwell (5), Edith Ashwell (5½), Meda Graham Watson (6), Alex. Colles (5), Eileen Colles (5), Jessie Vickers (5), Joan Campion (5). Div. II. (members aged 10 and upwards) Rhoda Goddard (5), Dorothy Senior (4½), Phyllis Murray (5), Georgina Smith (6), Vera Dawson (5), Grace Lawrence (5), Iole MacDonnell (4), Esmé Watson (5½), Dorothea Steinthal (5), Edith Samuels (3), Liliás Summers (4), Maud Vickers (4), Meta Colles (5), Daisy Armstrong (6), Lettice Pamphrey (3), Cecily de Fréville (6). Div. III. (members under 10) Esther McNeill (4½), Marjorie Halford (5), Jessie Smith (4), Lorna Lawrence (4), Hubert Fraser (5), Janet Brooke (6), Cicely Foster (6), Eric Steinthal (6), Paul Steinthal (4), Audrey de Fréville (4), Emily Vickers (6), Kathleen Colles (4), Jack Vickers (5).

The following new members have joined the "Jack and Jill" Club:—Edith and Hubert Fraser, Meda and Esmé Graham Watson, Alexander, Eileen, Meta and Kathleen Colles, Joan Campion, Dorothy Senior, Liliás Summers, Dorothy Mayall, Kathleen and Hester Sandbach, Jessie, Maud, Emily, and Jack Vickers.

THE "P.R." LETTER BAG.

[*The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of Correspondents.*]

NURSERY DINNERS FOR A FORTNIGHT.

Sunday. Roast beef, boiled potatoes, sago and apple pudding. *Monday.* Potato soup, cold beef, fried potatoes, brussel sprouts. *Tuesday.* Boiled cod, potatoes, cottage pudding. *Wednesday.* Fish cakes, chops, potatoes, cup puddings. *Thursday.* Stewed rabbit with onions (very carefully scalded), snowflake potatoes, rhubarb and rice. *Friday.* Pea soup, boiled fowl, potatoes, brocoli. *Saturday.* Beefsteak pudding, potatoes boiled in their jackets, stewed figs. *Sunday.* Boiled mutton with carrot and turnip, or parsley sauce, mashed potatoes, jam roly poly. *Monday.* Rice soup, cold mutton, fried potatoes, custard pudding. *Tuesday.* Stewed fresh tongue with carrot and turnip, potatoes, bread and butter pudding. *Wednesday.* Fried or stewed haddock, potatoes, steamed rice pudding. *Thursday.* Milk soup, roast leg of mutton, potatoes parboiled and roasted with the mutton, stewed prunes. *Friday.* Cold mutton, browned mashed potatoes, minced cabbage, pancakes. *Saturday.* Stewed steak with carrot, turnip, potatoes, apple dumplings.

[We cannot at present publish any more menus, but hope to do so later.—ED.]

DEAR EDITOR,—I shall be most grateful to you or to any of your readers if they will suggest in the "Letter Bag" of the *Parents' Review*, the name of any book that will give a collected set of lessons on the New Testament. There are so many books of the kind published, that there must be something; but among the great number, I am at a loss to find what I want, and so write to you for help. Sometime ago "Lessons on the Life of Our Lord," by Eugene Stock, was suggested to me, but since its publication in the seventies, much newer criticism has been accepted, and I am constantly balked by feeling that I cannot teach this or that, and yet without sufficient knowledge to know in what way I should like to present the lesson to my children.

For the Old Testament, I find Church's Stories from the Old Testament excellent in familiarizing the stories for quite little children, and I have continued by using "The Bible for Young People," published by the Sunday School Association.

This book is, I fancy, up to date in its chronological and scientific teaching, and is good for ground work, though I wish I could find the same kind of book that is orthodox as well. With the help of the Cambridge Companion to the Bible, I can prepare my lessons without taking more time than a busy mother can spare.

In the various articles in the *Parents' Review*, the importance, the value and the necessity of the religious training of children is impressed on the reader, but I cannot remember any suggestion of lessons or books to be used, beyond some to be read and digested by the mother. The time for this is so short, with all the other reading that she must do on other subjects, and unless she has the natural gift of a teacher, it is difficult to make her lessons equally interesting and impressive. Can you suggest also easy lessons on Church history, and the prayer-book.

A. N. S.

DEAR EDITOR.—It will perhaps cheer the writer of the delightful article "When I was a little girl," to know that there are still children who have their "Jacks." My two elder children, boy and girl, have had their "private game," so they call their "Jack," for three years. No one has yet fathomed it. It will amuse them for hours and hours, and when they have been particularly happy and engrossed, we know that they have been playing it. They tell me, that they will still play it, when they are grown up and married. They will arrange to meet once a week in order to do so! Just as J. B. and her brother left the younger sister out of "Jack," so my two younger children know nothing of the "Private game." After all they were not there at its birth and have not lived in it and played it all along.

The children are 7 and 8, and one dreads the coming on of hard school routine, which will ride rough shod over these imaginative games, and will fill up every spare moment, so that the real growth and development stop. I am very proud of my children, (we mothers all are, but for once my anonymity allows me to say so) but I am prouder of this "private game" than of much besides. They are children of the age, in many ways, but they have been left alone to grow and have their "private game."

H. F.

DEAR EDITOR.—In regard to Mrs. Pardon's excellent article on, "Our girls' clothes," may I make one or two suggestions anent "The Corset"; firstly, I should certainly not use either *Jean* or *Drill* for the Bodice, neither are Hygienic materials. I find two thicknesses of flannel bound with stout braid answers for winter wear, and cellular cotton for summer. The Bodice should be made to button *in front*, just like a boy's waistcoat; for girls over twelve I have seen in, I think "The Baby," an excellent garment called a Bust supporter on the pattern of a Greek band, which would be far better than any form of corset.

C. SCHULTZ.

DEAR EDITOR.—I shall be much obliged if any reader of "Parents' Review" can let me have "The Good Voices" by Abbott. I find the book is out of print and am anxious to get it if possible. I should, of course, be willing to give a fair price for it.

Mayfield, Portlaw, Ireland.

Mrs. F. J. MALCOMSON.

DEAR EDITOR.—Can any one sell or lend me a copy of a little book now out of print, "How to make dolls' furniture, and furnish a dolls' house?" or tell me the name of any other book that gives directions for making dolls' furniture out of card-board?

DEAR EDITOR.—May I ask your readers to send me some more orders for stocking darning. The response made to my letter some months ago has been but small, but the work done met with very great satisfaction. One lady called it a "work of art." It is also a work of charity, for the worker has to bring up a large family on 10s. a-week. Woollen stockings 2d. a pair, silk or open work 3d.

Dunsden Vicarage, Reading.

M. L. HART DAVIS.

DEAR EDITOR.—I will be very grateful to girls or boys, who in their leisure, with their parent's permission, will write some memories of their young life, of Christmas time in their home and their country, making some description of the paysage dear to their eyes and heart! I am collecting documents about little English ones, for a future publication, and I thank since now my little collaborators, who will be so kind to send their memories, and begging the collaboration of some of their friends, for the grateful,

Zina Arpesani, De Agostini, Villa Keller, Monza (Italia.)

OUR WORK.

The House of Education.—The new house is filled with regular students, so we are compelled reluctantly to withdraw our invitation to mothers and to students who do not propose to teach. Ladies who wish for Probationers in the summer should write at once. We have had a delightful lecture on "Extinct Monsters," from the Rev. H. N. Hutchinson, B.A., F.G.S., with lime-light lantern illustrations. Such a lecture seems a necessary preparation for interest in the geological treasures of museums.

Parents' Review School.—We get many distressing letters from parents who complain that when their boys and girls go to school, they miss (a) the short hours, (b) the "Nature Lore" work, (c) the handiworks, (d) the absence of preparation, which characterise the P.R.S. Instead of writing to us, would it not be well for our friends to talk the matter over frankly with the head-masters and mistresses of the schools their children attend. These are usually advanced educationalists, very open to conviction. We know of one head-mistress who is now carefully considering the matter at the request of a mother. The Easter Examination begins on April 1st. Each child's set of papers should bear the name in full, age, and class. Answers should be written on one side of the paper only. The summer term begins April 22nd, and the new programmes will be sent out with the examination papers that any new books may be ready in time.

Mothers' Educational Course.—A delightful part of our work is the examination of the "Mothers'" papers. The last set are, perhaps, the most interesting and able we have yet had to deal with.

Natural History Club.—The Club is doing capital work. Particulars may be had from Miss Paterson, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

House of Education Natural History Club.—Notes by M. L. Hodgson. Work for the month:—Sycamore, Lime, Pines and Larches, Cherry, Poplars.

The Beech.—If we take a beech-twigs and draw a line from any given bud, so as to pass through three consecutive buds, on reaching the third one we should find it exactly over the bud we started from. This is the simple arrangement of alternate buds, and is represented by $\frac{1}{3}$, the number of turns in the spiral representing the numerator, and the number of buds encountered being the denominator. The buds are spindle-shaped, and are covered with bright brown scales, they stand sharply out from the twig, instead of sitting close to it, as is the case with the ash for example. The bark of the beech is very smooth and grey, it does not rupture like that of the oak, nor scale off like that of the sycamore; it

therefore affords but slight foothold to mosses and lichens. The leaves of the beech are ovate, and distinctly marked by parallel veins proceeding directly from the mid-rib to the margin; in the spring they are fringed with beautiful delicate hairs, but these quickly wear off, the leaves assume their more business-like appearance for the summer. The clusters of barren and fertile flowers are borne on long slender stalks and may escape observation, unless carefully looked for. If you examine the fertile flowers you will find usually two together enclosed in a prickly involucre or calyx, which is afterwards, as you would suppose, the receptacle for the three-angled nuts. When the fruit is ripe this receptacle opens by four splits, which allows the seed to fall to the ground. Most of you are familiar with the appearance of the beech-mast, and know that often many hundreds of nuts are empty, and also that the involucre often remains closed, and clings tightly to the tree for several seasons, until wind and wet brings it to the ground.

This tree is readily grown from seed, and you may find hundreds of seedling beeches, in a favourable situation and season, covering the ground under the trees. The remarkable appearance of the cotyledons will at once attract attention; they are very large and wide spreading, vivid green above, and a pale silvery grey beneath. The beech prefers a chalky soil, and, in the counties of Sussex and Hampshire, the beech hangers form a conspicuous, and remarkable feature in the landscape. The ground under these trees is usually bare or very sparsely covered with vegetation, but this allows the beautiful structure of the beech to be well seen. The beech leaves lie for a long period without decaying, and, in the autumn and winter form a beautiful contrast in colour to the grey trunks and boughs above them. Hedges of beech are very common owing to its keeping on the leaves in its young state during the winter.

The growth of the beech is comparatively rapid, growing to the height of about twenty feet, in ten years. It is said that, with the exception of hollies, no tree will flourish along with the beech, for it quickly surmounts other trees, and the drip from its leaves is so great as to be very detrimental to vegetation. If the dead leaves under the trees are raked up and burnt, a great many wild flowers will soon spring up, such as primroses, violets, wood-sanicle, etc.

Living in the moss at the base of the beech you will find several snails that have assumed an appearance so like the buds, that it is difficult at first sight to distinguish them. *Clausilia bidens. C. Nigricans*, etc.

There are very few insects that feed on this tree in comparison with the oak, but a few caterpillars of some of our finest moths may be found; one, the curious lobster moth larva, a most grotesque creature, unlike any of our other caterpillars.

In many places the curious Bird's Nest Orchis may be found—it is a parasite—on the beech roots; also several fungi, such as the truffle and morel, etc.

Objects Examined.—Beech twigs, snail shells, drawings of caterpillars, moths, etc. Much progress has been made, in spite of the bad weather, in the out-door study of trees and twigs. Many beautiful drawings have been made and exhibited at our Wednesday evening meetings. The buds have now so much altered in appearance that we shall leave the twigs alone until their flowers are out.

BOOKS.

The Whispering Winds and the Tales they told, by Mary H. Debenham, with twenty-five illustrations by Paul Hardy. (Blackie and Son). This is a delightful book. No child could fail to be touched by the charm and quaint humour of the tales told by the winds. There is a noble lesson to be learnt in each. The style is excellent, and the pictures are charming. Our readers will be glad to learn that Miss Debenham has consented to write three tales this year in the *Budget*.

Ten Tales without a Title, by Edith Carrington (Griffith, Farran & Co., 5s.) Miss Carrington needs no introduction to our readers. This is not a new book, but as it has not been previously noticed in our book, we venture to bring it before the notice of those who have not seen it. It is a glorious book for the little ones, introducing them in short tales to the wonders of nature.

Finger Plays, by Emilie Poulsson. (J. Curwen & Sons, 2s.) These are written for little ones from three upwards. The music is tuneful and charming, and the words will attract all the babies. Each poem is well illustrated, showing the action of the fingers and hands in each verse. This is a counting lesson.

(Right hand).

Here is the bee hive. Where are the bees?
Hidden away where nobody sees.
Soon they come creeping out of the hive,
One!—two!—three! four! five.

(Left hand).

Once I saw an ant hill,
With no ants about;
So I said, "Dear little ants,
Won't you please come out?"
Then as if the little ants
Had heard my call—
One!—two!—three! four! five came out!
And that was all.

Good drawings both of bees and ants accompany the songs.

Children's Play and Work (yearly, £1; quarterly, 5s.) This is a magazine for boys and girls, which is carried on on different lines from all others. It not only gives tales, the newest games, but also enables the subscribers to make play things themselves by sending them the necessary materials to do so, all of which are included in the subscription. It is published by Fr. Tedesco & Co., 147, Great Portland Street, London, W.